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THE GULL



Golden Gate Audubon Society

Berkeley, California

September 1988

Number 8 Volume 70

THE WETLANDS QUILT AND ONE MILLION SHOREBIRDS

One million shorebirds every spring depend on San Francisco Bay wetlands for their survival. Returning to their arctic breeding grounds from as far south as Tierra Del Fuego, these shorebirds need our wetlands to rest, to feed and restore their bodyweight and energy. Non-tidal wetlands are an essential part of this process and many, if not most, are threatened with destruction. 80% of an entire species of shorebird may use our Bay. The loss of these wetlands could spell extinction for such species and will have drastic results on all our shorebird populations.

Recent studies have presented us with a disturbing picture of wetland loss. Between 1956 and 1985 our Bay lost 15,000 acres of seasonal wetlands to urban growth. In fact, there are only about 9300 acres of seasonal wetlands left. Our shorebirds have lost over 64% of their habitat since 1955. (These are ballpark numbers, but close enough to be dismaying). Of these approximately 9300, or so, acres remaining, 43% are planned for development. Lose enough habitat and an entire ecosystem can disappear. We are in very real danger of reaching that point, if we can not stop these proposed wetland developments. Overcrowding and lack of food will lead to disease and starvation. Ultimately, we face a bay, a sky and shoreline without birds.

As you know, GGAS has been involved in several lawsuits to protect these wetlands. The Oakland Airport seasonal wetlands provide refuge to more than 17,000 birds daily, as shown by our one-day Christmas Count records. We have sued to protect them. The Distribution Center Site, adjacent to Arrowhead Marsh (a 50 acre remnant of what was once over 2000 acres of tidal marsh) was planned for development. We are suing to preserve it as seasonal wetland, or return it to tidal marsh.

It is critical that we continue in these efforts and be ready to undertake new ones. To date, our legal costs have been well over \$20,000. More will be needed to finish them. **YOU CAN HELP!** Participate in our drawing; all proceeds will go to our efforts to preserve these threatened wetlands.

SAVE THE WETLANDS

BENEFIT FREE DRAWING GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Prizes: Handmade queen-sized Wetlands Quilt; One day outing around Pt. Reyes National Seashore in mid-March 1989 with Rich Stallicup (includes picnic lunch); One night for two at the Highlands Inn, Carmel; A gourmet outing for six on the Bay with Captain Pruitt on his charter boat; Dinner for two at the Corona Bar & Grill, S.F.; One introductory sea kayaking lesson with Sea Trek, Sausalito, and many more.

Donation: \$20.00 or \$2.00/each.

Drawing Date: January 12, 1989
Randall Museum
San Francisco

Tickets may be obtained by anyone over 18 upon request.
Your presence or contribution not required to win.

Return stubs to: Golden Gate Audubon Society,
1550 Shattuck Ave., #204, Berkeley, CA 94709

For additional tickets or information,
please phone (415) 843-2222.



FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR

Saturday, September 10—Coastal San Francisco. Meet at 8 a.m. at the parking lot between South and Middle Lakes (Chain of Lakes) near the 41st Ave. and Lincoln Way entrance to Golden Gate Park. We will bird in the park, Lake Merced and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in search of migrants. Bring your lunch and be prepared for cold weather near the coast. Leader: Dan Murphy (564-0074). (✓)

Wednesday, September 14—Mintrip to Alameda South Shore and surrounding areas. Meet at 9 a.m. in Alameda at Broadway and Shoreline Dr. Bring lunch and scopes. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (351-9301) and Jean Marie Spoelman.

Saturday, September 10—San Mateo Coast. Meet in the parking lot on the ocean side at the junction of Hwy. 1 and Pescadero Rd. at 9 a.m. We will bird at Pescadero in the morning and at Ano Nuevo in the afternoon. If you wish to join the group in the afternoon only, meet us at the Ano Nuevo parking lot at 1 p.m. Bring lunch and a light jacket; the weather can be cool along the coast. We will look for migrants and shorebirds in the mudflats. We will be looking for Pectoral and Baird's Sandpipers, Tattlers and Knots. We may also see Marbled Murrelets at Ano Nuevo. Call Russ Wilson (524-2399) by September 12 for reservations. Leader: Ted Chandik (493-5330). \$ (✓)

Sunday, September 18—Point Diablo. Meet at the top of Bunker Hill where we will watch for migrating hawks and landbirds between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. From San Francisco drive

north across the Golden Gate Bridge and take Alexander Ave. exit. Turn left as if returning to San Francisco, drive under the freeway and bear to the right. Go up to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area; continue along the road past the intersection with a road coming up from Rodeo Valley to the large tunnels on the right. Park and walk up the trail to the left of the second tunnel. We will bird from the observation point at the north end of the hilltop. Bring lunch and liquids. Sun screen, a hat, and a wind-breaker may be advisable. Co-leaders: Carter Faust (453-2899) and Herb Brandt (239-2711). (✓)

Sunday, September 25—Lands End, San Francisco. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Palace of the Legion of Honor parking lot (Lincoln Park). From Geary Blvd. go north (toward the bay) on 34th Ave. to the top of the hill (through the golf course) and park in the large circular lot to the east (right). We will walk about two miles. Leader: Alan Hopkins (664-0983). (✓)

Saturday, October 1—Beginners' Trip to Aquatic Park and Golden Gate National Recreation Area, San Francisco. Meet at 8 a.m. at the foot of Van Ness Ave. We will bird that area for landbirds, waterbirds, and possibly a Great-tailed Grackle. From there we will drive to the Old Coast Guard Station at the northwest end of Crissy Field where we should see some shorebirds and other waterbirds. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them. Leaders: Jan Andersen (922-5866) and Scott Morrical (566-1815). (✓)

Sunday, October 8—Alameda and San Leandro Shoreline. Meet at 9 a.m.

in Alameda at Broadway and Shoreline Dr. We will bird the Elsie B. Roemer Bird Sanctuary. Shorebirds should be present in numbers, so bring a spotting scope if you have one. Bring lunch and liquids. The afternoon session will be local, but may include a search for interesting landbirds. Leader: Leora Feeney (522-8525). (✓)

Sunday, October 2—Sunol Regional Park. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Park Headquarters. Take I-680 south; exit at Calaveras Rd.; go left and follow the signs to Sunol Park (about five miles). Bring lunch. We should see some wintering residents and fall migrants common to the interior. Leader: Art Edwards (447-3720). \$ (✓)

Sunday, October 9—Beginners' trip to Coyote Hills Regional Park. Meet at 9 a.m. at Visitors' Center. Take I-80 (Nimitz Frwy.) south to Rt. 84/Dumbarton Bridge exit. Go west and take Newark Blvd. exit. Cross Newark Blvd. and continue on Ardenwood Blvd. three quarters of a mile to Commerce Dr. and follow signs to Coyote Hills. Bring lunch and liquids, and binoculars and fieldguides if you have them. This is a unique park with fresh water habitat. Leader: Gene Hull (525-6893). \$ (✓)

Wednesday, October 11—Mini-trip to Eastbay Shoreline. Meet at 9:15 a.m. From Hwy. 80 in Emeryville take Powell St. exit. Meet at the north end of the parking lot at the Holiday Inn. We will be looking for shorebirds of the area. Lunch optional. Rain cancels trip. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (351-9301) and Jean Marie Spoelman.

Carpooling Arrangements will be attempted for trips marked (✓). Call Russ Wilson (524-2399).

Trips marked with \$ go to parks or other sites that require an entrance fee.

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, comparable to the one in Point Reyes, is a non-profit scientific research and conservation organization that studies bird breeding colonies in the Bay. One project SFBBO has undertaken focuses on the colonies of Caspian Terns, Snowy Egrets, Avocets, Black-necked Stilts, Great Blue Herons and Black-crowned Night Herons that live on Bear Island. The Island is part national wildlife refuge and part Mobil Oil property located off Redwood City Harbor. SFBBO is also involved in a banding project at a California Gull colony on the Knapp property that is half way between Moffett Field and Newark.

Rick Palmer, a former board member of Santa Clara Audubon and a volunteer photographer for SFBBO, will present his slides of some of these projects at our meeting on **Thursday, Sept. 8** at 7:30 p.m., held at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda in Berkeley. Rick, who has had his photographs exhibited at the Bear Valley Center in Pt. Reyes, will be accompanied by two volunteer officers of SFBBO, who will explain more about their organization and its efforts toward protecting threatened bird habitats in the Bay. Join us for our first meeting of the season.

GGAS PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

President Tom White announced the appointment of Joelle Buffa as Program Chairman at the board meeting in Berkeley June 25th. She has been assisting at meetings in San Francisco and has arranged programs for another Audubon chapter. We welcome her and hope you'll welcome her too, at the September general meeting.

OBSERVATIONS

June 1 through July 12

Clear, windy weather during the peak of land bird migration contributed to fairly poor vagrant hunting. One wave of interesting birds arrived June 15-17 coinciding roughly with SE Farallon observations (all SE Farallon Island news thanks to Point Reyes Bird Observatory). Seabirds provided a little more excitement for coastal observers.

Waterbirds

Small numbers of Black-footed Albatrosses were seen on pelagic trips out of Monterey and to the Farallon Islands throughout the period (SJ, MLE, ToJ, DWm), but fourteen seen from Bird Island parking lot, Pt. Lobos State Reserve, June 19 were especially rewarding for land-based birders (MCM, et al.). From one to five Pink-footed Shearwaters were found on Farallon pelagic trips during the period (MLE, ToJ, DWm), and two Flesh-footed Shearwaters were six miles west of SE Farallon July 10 (ToJ). Large numbers of migrating Sooty Shearwaters are expected off shore from May to October, and this year was no exception. Many reports of "hundreds of thousands" of Sootys were reported throughout the period. An adult **Brown Booby** was found at Pt. Lobos State Reserve June 15 (JL, *fide* DR), and lingered through June 19 (CS). This bird represents only the fourth northern California record (all records since 1983).

An immature Little Blue Heron was at Stockton sewage ponds July 11-12 (DGY). Four White-faced Ibis at Bolinas Lagoon May 24-25 (DWm) and one near Robert's Landing, San Leandro June 2 (RJ) were in interesting locations. They are more expected in the Central Valley; however, nearly one

thousand White-faced Ibis near Woodland Sugar Ponds June 19 was quite amazing. Their numbers dwindled to about twelve nesting pair by late June (SS). A Greater Flamingo, undoubtedly an escapee, surprised an observer at Alameda South Shore June 26 (JP).

White-fronted Geese are unusual in the state in summer, so one on the Leslie Salt property July 10 was quite surprising (LRF). Brant were seen coastally throughout the period: twelve at Rodeo Beach June 15 (CLF), twenty-two at Princeton Jetty through June 23 (HG, PDG), twenty-four in Bodega Harbor June 19 (HG, SFB). More unusual at this time of year was one at the Hayward Regional Shoreline Marsh July 6 (RJR). An extremely rare male **Garganey** visited near the Woodland Sugar Ponds for one day only June 19 (GEw). An Oldsquaw lingered off the Fish Docks at Pt. Reyes throughout the period (DWm, mob, JMR).

An adult Semipalmated Sandpiper at the Stockton Sewage Ponds July 11 (DGY) heralded the beginning of shorebird migration. Unusual in the middle of June were a breeding plumaged Long-billed Dowitcher at the Spaletta ponds, Pt. Reyes June 10-12 (DAH, JM), and a Common Snipe at Rodeo Beach June 15 (CLF).

A South Polar Skua was seen two miles southwest of the Farallones July 9 (DWm). A breeding plumaged Laughing Gull at SE Farallon "laughing amongst the incubating Western Gulls" June 2-4, was the second Island record. (The first was Aug. 3, 1977.) Birders on a pelagic trip June 9 off the coast of San Francisco discovered a **Thick-billed Murre** about ten miles west of Fort Funston (St.C). A Horned Puffin was also found on the same trip about six miles west of Muir Beach (StC). Another Horned Puffin

was offshore at SE Farallon June 17, the first at the Island since 1975. One Xantus' Murrelet was seen on a Monterey pelagic trip June 18 (SJ).

Landbirds

The critically endangered Yellow-billed Cuckoo made a strong showing on the coast this spring/summer. Two arrived at SE Farallon June 14, 16, and two others found Marin Co.: one at Pt. Reyes, moving from the Fish Docks to New Willows June 15–22 (RS, DAH, CP, et al.), and the other at Rodeo Lagoon June 22 (CLF). One Long-eared Owl arrived at SE Farallon June 17. Two Black Swifts were near the mouth of Gazos Creek, and a Vaux's Swift flew over the creek near Highway 1 and Cloverdale Rd. June 8 (PJM). A Pileated Woodpecker was seen at Mt. Diablo on Curry Canyon Trail June 5 (KGH), and there were both male and female Pileated Woodpeckers there June 11 (GFi, et al.).

A Cassin's Kingbird was seen along Livermore Mines Rd. just south from Tesla Rd. July 9 (ALE). An Eastern Kingbird graced Mendoza Ranch June 15 (RS, et al.). Another was near Big Sur June 30 (BGE). A Philadelphia Vireo was at Elk Glen Lake in Golden Gate Park June 15–17 (ASH, et al.). A Red-eyed Vireo found SE Farallon June 11.

The following table of vagrant warblers lists 44 individuals of 12 species. Less than half of the individuals (20) of 8 species were found away from SE Farallon. Spring vagrant season totals are: 49 individuals of 12 species.

Tennessee Warbler (total 1, 3 for spring)

1 Pt. Reyes June 16–17 SMo

Magnolia Warbler (total 8)

4 SE Farallon June 11–16 PRBO

3 Pt. Reyes June 16 DAH,JM,RS

1 Lincoln Park, S.F. June 17 ASH

Cape May Warbler (total 2)

2 SE Farallon	June 14–16	PRBO
Black-throated Green Warbler (total 1)		
1 SE Farallon	June 14–16	PRBO
Bay-breasted Warbler (total 1)		
1 Pt. Reyes	June 15–17	DWe
Blackpoll Warbler (total 2)		
1 Pt. Reyes	June 26	GHg,BHo,JM
1 Olema Ranch		
Campgrnd	July 6–7	RS
Black-and-white Warbler (total 6, 7 for spring)		
3 SE Farallon	June 11–15	PRBO
1 Pt. Reyes	June 16	JM,et al.
1 Gazos Creek Rd.	July 3	RSTh
1 Olema Marsh	Jul 6	RS
American Redstart (total 8)		
1 SE Farallon	June 17	PRBO
5 Pt. Reyes	June 14–26	JMR,JM,DAH
1 Lake Merced	June 17	ASH
1 Tomales Bay SP	June 26	JM, et al.
Ovenbird (total 12, 14 for spring)		
11 SE Farallon	June 11–17	PRBO
1 Pt. Reyes	June 16	DWm
Kentucky Warbler (total 1)		
1 SE Farallon	June 17	PRBO
Mourning Warbler (total 1)		
1 SE Farallon	June 14–15	PRBO
Hooded Warbler (total 1)		
1 Lincoln Park, S.F.	June 21	ASH,JM,MLR
Fifteen Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found during the period.		
7 SE Farallon	June 10–17	PRBO
3 Pt. Reyes	June 15–18	RS,JM,et al.
2 Mill Valley & nearby	June 10,15	MH
1 Rodeo Lagoon	June 16–	BiL, JM,MLR
	July 1	CLF
1 Gazos Creek Road	June 30	BS,fide,RSTh
1 El Sobrante	July 6	MRSRP
Ten Indigo Buntings were seen, as follows:		
5 SE Farallon	June 14–16	PRBO
3 Pt. Reyes	June 12–16	JMcC,JM,RS
		DAH, et al.
1 Dog Town	June 25–	RMS,AD
	July 2	
This bird appeared mated with a Lazuli Bunting, and there were young on June 25 (RMS).		
1 Rodeo Lagoon	July 6	CLF,TJ
A Clay-colored Sparrow was at SE Farallon June 11, and another found New Willows June 16 (JM, et al.). Three female Yellow-headed		

Blackbirds visited coastal locations: one at Abbott's Lagoon June 10 (DAH), one at Pacifica June 18 (SSm), and one at Pescadero Marsh July 4 (RSTh). A Great-tailed Grackle was found in **Marin County**, near the horse stables on Rodeo Lagoon Rd., June 15-17 (CLF, BiL, et al.). A female Orchard Oriole made it to SE Farallon June 11 to provide a first spring record there. An adult male Orchard Oriole was in a residential area in Alamo June 28 (JK).

Obervers: Stephen F. Bailey, Steve Cooper (StC), Ann Dewart, Art L. Edwards, Bruce G. Elliott, Gil Ewing (GEw), Michael L. Ezekiel, Carter L. Faust, Leora R. Feeney, George Finer (GFi), Al Ghirorso, Wilma Ghiorso, Philip E. Gordon, Edward D. Greaves, Helen Green, Paul D. Green, Kevin G. Hints, Melanie Hirsch, Bob Hogan (BHo), David A. Holway, Alan S. Hopkins, George Hugenberg (GHg), Tony Jackson, Robert Jarrell, Tom Johnson (ToJ), Jim Kitzstever, Bill Lenarz (BiL), Jerry Lucas, John McCormick, Peter J. Metropulos, Mark C. Miller, Joseph Morlan, Scott Mornical (SMo), Daniel P. Murphy, Jim Partridge, Courtney Petal, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (thanks to Peter Pyle), Mrs. Robert Pride (MRSRP), Jean M. Richmond, Richard J. Richmond, Don Roberson, Mary Louise Rosegay, Susan Sanders, Barry Saupe, Shearwater Journeys, Scott Smithson (SSm), Chris Spooner, Rich Stallcup, Robert M. Stewart, Ron S. Thorn (RSTh), David Weiss (DWe), David Wimpfheimer (DWm), David G. Yee.

Please report observations to Northern California Rare Bird Alert: 528-0288 or 524-5592.

—HELEN GREEN

Observations Editor

2001 Yolo Ave., Berkeley, CA 94707

BIRD SEED SALE ANNOUNCEMENT
SEE PAGE 120 OF THIS ISSUE.

NAS BOARD MEETS IN SACRAMENTO

The National Audubon Society Board of Directors will be meeting in Sacramento September 15-18. Chapter members are encouraged to join the Regional and Chapters Activities Committee meeting on **Thursday, September 17** from 4 to 6 p.m. followed by a reception from 6 to 8 p.m. Call the GGAS office, 843-2222 for more details.



MUIR'S WILDERNESS

Sierra Club founder, John Muir, one of the nation's first environmental advocates left a priceless legacy of wilderness literature to generations which follow him.

In observance of his 150th birthday Vista Community College in Berkeley is sponsoring a ten-week course this fall which highlights many of his most memorable stories and essays. Included will be "Stickeen", essays from *The Mountains of California*, *Yosemite*, and others.

Beginning **Sept. 8** and running through Dec. 15, classes will meet Thursday, 2-4 p.m. at the Oakland Museum's lecture hall, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. The fee is \$10 and you may register at Vista College, 2020 Milvia St., Berkeley or at the first class meeting. Vista instructor Lou Bohlen will lead the class. Call 841-8431 for information.

THE BACK YARD BIRDER

Seen soaring in the blue Florida sky, a magnificent Frigatebird is far more attractive than it is up close and personal. This large, 3' long bird with a wingspan of 7-8' and a forked tail is the picture of grace in the air, a lovely flying "machine." Frigatebirds have the greatest wing area in proportion to their weight (2-3 lbs.) of any living bird. As such, they are one of the most aerial of all water birds. During the greatest of storms they stay aloft and are often blown far inland. These unique birds have along, prominently hooked bill and weak, short legs. This means they cannot usually become airborne unless from someplace with elevation and if forced to land on water they are nearly helpless. Much like hunting falcons, frigatebirds use their forked tails to steer in pursuit of prey, fish which they catch near the water's surface and which they swallow in flight.

Apparently frigatebirds were so named because of their marauding-type behavior, similar to old-time war vessels called frigates. These birds often force gulls and terns to give up their catches of fish, giving rise to their other name, "man-o-war birds." Or, perhaps more romantically, they remind us of wind-driven frigates, scudding like sailing ships before the wind. They are related to tropicbirds, boobies, gannets, pelicans and cormorants. Of the five species of frigatebirds found worldwide, only the Magnificent Frigatebird breeds in the U.S.—and this nesting site was recently found in Key West in 1969. They are occasionally seen in the southernmost part of North America's Pacific Ocean.

Most of us nature program viewers are familiar with the most striking feature of frigatebirds: the male has a bright red gular sac which it inflates like

a large balloon in order to attract a female. Since there are large numbers of males performing this feat, which is apparently irresistible to females, competition is great. The bottom line would seem to be the male's nest location, i.e., the penthouse or the basement apartment. Usually silent at sea, the adults on the breeding grounds utter a strange far-carrying gutteral/whistling sound. This, combined with nestlings' cackling and whining creates quite a din. Males also produce a drumming sound, probably a product of the inflated throat.

Known for their homing instincts, Polynesians took young frigatebirds from their nests, tamed them and used them to carry messages between islands 70-80 miles apart. Another odd fact: they sleep so soundly that they can be caught in the hands, perhaps explaining the ease with which Polynesians captured them.

Although they are not common except in tropical climes, even the most novice of birders could not mistake the glorious, Magnificent Frigatebird on the wing.

—MEG PAULETICH

GGAS TRIPS

There is still time to be included on Steve Howell and Lina Jane Prairie's Central American trips in 1989. Phone the office (843-2222) or Lina (549-3187, evenings) for more details.

COOPER SOCIETY AT MILLS

The first meeting of the Northern California Cooper Ornithological Society for the fall season will be 8 p.m., Monday, Sept. 19 at Mills College. Speaker to be announced. For information phone Janet Wessel at 939-2499.

FALL BIRDING CLASSES IN SAN FRANCISCO

Evening birding classes will start Sept. 1 at the Marina Middle School in San Francisco as part of the Community College, Community Service Program. *Ornithology I* is an introduction to avian biology; it meets Tuesdays 7-9:30 p.m. starting Sept. 6 in room 222. *Ornithology II* will cover diving ducks, rails and shorebirds; it meets Wednesdays 7-9:30 p.m. starting Sept. 7 in room 222. *Ornithology III* will cover owls, swifts and hummingbirds; it meets Thursdays from 7-9:30 p.m. starting Sept. 1 in room 222. The school is at Fillmore and Bay with ample free parking. Instructor is **Joe Morlan**. Fees are \$45 for each eight-week class. Pre-registration is highly recommended, or you may register at the first class meeting. For more information call the Community Services Office at 776-8247 or see *The GULL* for July-August.

The Community College plans to eliminate this program in the spring, effectively leaving the students with no opportunity to take a comparable program. If you would like to see these classes continue, please let your views be known to the Community Services Office at 776-8247.

CAN YOU REMEMBER?

What was the "Distribution Center" site like? It is that area east of the access road to Arrowhead Marsh Park (EBRPD) and south of the marsh to Hegenberger Rd. Our lawyers would like information from the mid-1970s through the mid-1980s on wildlife habitat and wildlife species use of that place. Was it wet? What birds were there? Any history you can recall would be helpful. Please call 843-2222 with information.

GGAS MONTEREY PELAGIC TRIP

The Golden Gate Audubon Society plans to expand its program of pelagic trips so that members are afforded a more economical alternative to many of the excursions offered by other organizations. This first trip is scheduled for **Sunday, Oct. 23**. We plan an 8 a.m. departure from Monterey Harbor. Past trips have produced sightings of albatross, shearwaters, jaegers, alcids, dolphin, whales and other species of birds and marine mammals not usually seen from land.

Reservations may be made by sending \$25 per person to the GGAS office, 1550 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, CA 94709. Make checks payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society and enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. Details on when and where to meet will be mailed with confirmation notice. For more information, call 843-2222.

SHEARWATER JOURNEYS

Once again, this is the twelfth year, Debra Love Shearwater has announced her program for natural history pelagic trips. In all, over 70 trips are offered each year. If you would like a listing of her offerings you may write her at P.O. Box 1445, Soquel, CA 95073, or phone (408) 688-1990.

For example, Monterey Bay trips are Sept. 1, 8, 18, 20 and 29; and Monterey Seavalley are Sept. 5, 11, 17, and 25.

MORE DATES TO REMEMBER

Point Reyes Bird Observatory will conduct its fall shorebird census on the week-end of September 10-11. Those wishing to participate should call PRBO, 868-1221.

The annual PRBO Bird-a-thon, their important fundraiser, will be Saturday, September 24 this year.

RIVENES & GREEN RIDE AGAIN!

Once again we take up helmet and gloves to SAVE MONO LAKE, joining up to 75 other bikers in the ride from Los Angeles to Mono Lake. As you know, from reading last month in *The GULL* article on Mono Lake, this beautiful inland sea continues to be in danger. The City of Los Angeles Department of Water & Power has yet to be convinced that solutions to saving Mono Lake are not complex. They have the 70,000 acre feet a year of water needed to save Mono Lake available to them through other sources. It would currently cost each consumer a little more for their water, perhaps an increase of 1.5 percent in their water bills. This does not seem excessive to those of us here in the north who have had to face larger increases in our water bills and drastically reduce our consumption. And...the lawsuits go on.

So, once again, we are asking you to support us in this effort by pledging any amount per mile (350 miles). Make checks payable to Mono Lake Committee or Mono Lake Foundation, and send them to the GGAS office. We need your encouragement!

NATURAL EXCURSIONS

Natural Excursions, an arm of the PRBO has issued another of its attractive brochures announcing activities: birding and natural history excursions. If you would like one, phone them at 868-1221.

Gary Page and Rich Stallcup, for example, offer a Fall Wader Weekend, Sept. 16 (evening), 17 and 18. The fee of \$90 includes lodging at Point Reyes Hostel. And much, much, more.

SAN BLAS BIRD COUNT

Allan Ridley and Helen McKenna are coordinating the annual San Blas Christmas Bird Count in Mexico. The likely date is Dec. 28, 1988 and GGAS members are encouraged to join them. If you want further information write to them at 519 Belvedere, San Francisco, CA 94117. They report that very comfortable accommodations are available at Las Briasas Resort, San Blas.

FEEDER WATCH

Have you wondered where the birds at your feeder come from, where they go when they leave, and why bird numbers change from year to year? Do you want to know what birds come to feeders in different parts of the country? *Project Feederwatch* is a new continent-wide survey of bird feeders designed to help answer questions such as these. You are invited to join.

This project is a cooperative research venture of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and Canada's Long Point Bird Observatory. It is in the midst of a successful pilot year with 4000 participants all across North America. The project is modeled on a survey run successfully in Ontario for the past 11 years, which has shown the male Evening Grosbeaks winter farther south than females, Black-capped Chickadees are found in low numbers when Evening Grosbeaks are abundant, and numbers of many species at feeders parallel those found on Christmas Bird Counts.

Sound interesting? *Project Feederwatch* needs thousands of additional observers across the continent to help answer questions about feeder birds on a broad geographic scale. You need not be an expert birder to take part—the project concentrates on common species, and baffling rarities can be

ignored. Although counts are made over a one or two day period of your choice every other week from November through March, you are not obliged to watch every time, nor must you watch continuously on count days. All observations are recorded on computer-readable forms so that detailed summaries can be provided to participants promptly each season and to insure that the data are readily available for further analysis.

In return for your observations, *Project Feederwatch* will send an annual newsletter and report on the season's results, plus two issues of *Birdscope*, the Laboratory of Ornithology's research newsletter. If you cannot take part but would like to receive these publications anyway, you may subscribe to them separately.

Project Feederwatch requires an annual registration fee of \$9 which helps to pay for data forms, analysis and preparation and mailing of reports and newsletters. To join write to Erica Dunn, Coordinator, *Project Feederwatch*, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca, NY 14850. Include your name and address, state whether you wish to contribute observations from your feeder or just receive reports, and enclose your check for \$9 (made payable to *Project Feederwatch*). Please sign up right away, to help them plan how many forms to print and to avoid delays. You will receive all materials and instructions just before the season begins in mid-November. You can help make *Project Feederwatch* a truly continental survey.

MONO LAKE PLAN DUE

The long awaited Draft Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the management of MONO BASIN NATIONAL FOREST SCENIC AREA will be available for public review and

response by the time this issue of *The GULL* reaches you.

The Draft Plan will lay out the long term management direction for the Scenic Area's threatened resources. This plan is critical to the ultimate protection of healthy, beautiful Mono Lake.

The Forest Service has indicated that the Draft Plan will identify the lake level (see *The GULL*, p. 99, Ed.) required to protect the area's ecological and aesthetic values. Public participation is essential to make sure the Forest Service chooses a lake level that will preserve the natural integrity of the Mono Basin environment.

ACTION ALERT!

The most important action you can take this year for Mono Lake is to respond to the Forest Service concerning the adequacy of the Draft Plan and the EIS. It is expected that there will be a 60 day public review period, as well as workshops to be held at Lee Vining and locations in Northern and Southern California soon. If you are not already on the mailing list write to:

Dennis Martin, Forest Supervisor
Inyo National Forest
73 North Main Street
Bishop, CA 93514

Specify whether you want a copy of the complete Draft Plan and EIS or only a summary document. For more information you may call the Mono Lake Committee (619) 647-6386 or write to P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541.

SEED TIME AGAIN OCTOBER 22

The fall bird feeding season is upon us and with it the need to find quality seed at reasonable prices. We are again offering our fine selection of seed and bird feeding equipment at sale locations

in Berkeley and San Francisco on Saturday, October 22. There will be extra seed available for those who have not pre-ordered. However, to guarantee availability of your favorite seed, we suggest that you do order in advance.

Thank you for your continued participation in these seed sales. They are an important source of funds for chapter activities. We would like to encourage members to volunteer on seed sale days to both help us out and become better acquainted with other chapter members.

Ordering Information

Please order and prepay by October 13. orders will be available for pick-up in Berkeley and San Francisco. Confirmation of your order will be sent the week prior to the sale.

Send the order form (with tax calculated, please), your check and a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Golden Gate Audubon Society, BIRD SEED, 1550 Shattuck Ave., #204, Berkeley, CA 94709.

SHOREBIRDS AFTERNOON

“Great Exertions and Immense Gluttony: Shorebirds Across the Americas” is the interest provoking title of an afternoon lecture to be delivered by Pete Myers, National Audubon’s Vice President for Science on Saturday, October 15 in the Oakland Museum Theater at 2 p.m. Dr. Myers founded and helps coordinate the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, an organization that promotes international cooperative management and protection of habitats critically important to migratory shorebirds. He recently joined Audubon after serving for six years with the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia and as director of VIREO.

Save Saturday afternoon, October 15 for a special treat from Audubon!

GGAS' OWN PREMIUM MIX: Top quality specially blended for us to meet the needs of Bay Area birds. It contains only red and white millet and black oil sunflower seed. This mix sold in the area and an excellent value for the money. No waste seed.

VOLKMAN WILD BIRD SEED: The “Rolls-Royce” of bird seed, contains no low-cost fillers the birds will flick aside. Composed of white and red millet and sudan grass screenings (a favorite of Bay Area Birds).

BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED: It is high in oil content and nutritive value and appeals to chickadees and nuthatches, titmice, jays, finches and many other bird species. This is the best all-around seed for attracting the largest number of desirable birds.

NIGER (THISTLE SEED): Imported from India, this seed is 98% pure. It is a minute seed rich in oil, and is unappealing to larger birds and squirrels. It will not sprout in your yard. Needs a thistle seed feeder.

GGAS BIRD SEED AND FEEDER SALE

ORDER AND PREPAY BY OCTOBER 14 / PICK UP ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22

BIRD FEEDERS

DROLL YANKEE FEEDER—Top of the line—16" long plexiglas tube with perches and tray \$25.00

DROLL YANKEE HUMMINGBIRD FEEDER—sturdy plastic saucer shape with 3 feeding openings \$10.00

PERKY-PET HUMMINGBIRD FEEDER—glass feeding bottle (holds 30 oz.) with six flower feeding stations and removeable perches \$14.00

THISTLE SOCK—most inexpensive thistle feeder. Made of fine mesh heavy duty nylon, 11" long. \$3.00

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Telephone (day) _____ (evening) _____

Berkeley San Francisco

SEED		QUANTITY	AMOUNT
GGAS' OWN PREMIUM MIX	20 lbs.	\$ 7.00	
	50 lbs.	\$14.00	
VOLKMAN WILD BIRD SEED	20lbs.	\$ 9.00	
	50 lbs.	\$19.00	
BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED	10 lbs.	\$ 9.00	
	25 lbs.	\$21.00	
NIGER (THISTLE SEED)	5lbs.	\$ 9.50	

FEEDERS

DROLL YANKEE 16"	\$25.00	
DROLL YANKEE Hummingbird feeder	\$10.00	
PERKY-PET Hummingbird feeder	\$14.00	
THISTLE SOCK	\$ 3.00	

Be sure to include
your check with a
stamped and self-
addressed envelope.

SUB-TOTAL	
ADD TAX (7%)	
TOTAL	
CONTRIBUTION TO GGAS	
TOTAL	

PRIZES

These are some of the prizes participants in our wetland benefit drawing will win:

- Queen size Wetlands Quilt
- Birding with Rich Stallcup
- One night at the Highlands Inn
- Gourmet outing on the Bay with Captain Pruett
- Dinner at the Corona Bar & Grill
- Sea Kayak lesson with Sea Trek
- Case of Kendall-Jackson wine
- Smith & Hawken spade and pitchfork
- Tracks in the Sky by Tupper Ansel—Blake and Peter Steinhart
- A gift of storytelling by Carol Nyhoff
- Ironwood sculpture of a soaring eagle from Mexico
- REI merchandise gift certificate
- Watercolor painting of ducks by Meredith Standiford
- Five albums of endangered species stamps produced for World Wildlife Fund

There is no doubt that there is something for everyone here and well worth an investment in Golden Gate Audubon! We hope you will increase your chances with lots of tickets! Just fill in the tickets with the appropriate information, and either send the whole

set (10) or cut out the number you wish (only the lucky ones, of course). Return with your donation to: GGAS office, 1550 Shattuck Ave., #204, Berkeley, CA 94709. Then just wait until January 12, 1989 for your winning tickets to be picked!!

ABOUT THE WETLANDS QUILT

The background is multihued, shading from gray and light blues through dark blue, rust and brown to greens. The shape of the background pieces is double-pointed teardrop. On the background are birds, insects, mammals and wetland plants done in applique and embroidery. The quilting design depicts sky and water with a border of bullrush. The quilt was designed, put together and quilted by Helen Green, Diane Hersh, George Hersh, Emily Kenyon, Jeanie Minor, Marti Morrow, and Kathy Ritter. Susan Galleni assisted with the quilting and Barbara Rivenes and Genie Pipa contributed embroidery.

THANKS TO ALL OUR DONORS!

The list of donated prizes represents businesses and individuals, members and non-members, BUT all very generous with their time and resources.
THANK YOU AND ALL.

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

FOR GGAS

In Memory of
 Louis M. Roy
 Vivian Slakey
 John Peoples

The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor of or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of Directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 1550 Shattuck Ave., #204, Berkeley, CA 94709. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in *The Gull* as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.

Gift of

Elizabeth & Orrin Richards
 Ray & Marie Crosbie
 Mrs. Jane Jensen

WETLAND BENEFIT DRAWING — \$2 EACH

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

WETLAND BENEFIT DRAWING — \$2 EACH

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

**WETLAND BENEFIT DRAWING — \$2 EACH**

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State _____ Zip _____

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THE GULL

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Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$8 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917,
and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month, and July 15th for September issue.